

10-1997

## Under the Dome - October 1997

McKissick Museum--University of South Carolina

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# UNDER *the* DOME

McKissick Museum • University of South Carolina

## Ceramics Collection

*continues to grow*

OCTOBER 1997

The past few months have been especially busy for McKissick Museum's collections department. Since June, the Museum has received over a dozen new donations and acquisitions of Southern stoneware and earthenware. A major collecting focus, ceramics additions that complement the Museum's existing holdings are always a pleasure to collections manager Karen Swager.

Additions to the Catawba Indian Pottery collection include both contemporary and older pieces. A contribution from Ms. Irene Brinkley and Ms. Sara Scarborough of an early Catawba footed cooking bowl is an excellent example of utilitarian ware. The bowl predates the production of Catawba pottery solely for tourists and collectors. A small, whimsical canoe-shaped bowl attributed to Chief Blue also dates from the 1930s. At one time the Catawba potting tradition was in danger of dying out, but recently a new generation of Catawba potters have learned from the older potters and are continuing the craft. Many of these younger potters have based their pottery on traditional forms while providing some innovations of their own. The Museum has acquired works from Catawba potters Monty Branham, Cheryl Sanders and Warren Sanders.

Also received with the donation of the two older Catawba pots are three pieces of Pisgah Forest Pottery. Pisgah Forest Pottery, established in 1926 by Walter B. Stephen, is found near Asheville, North Carolina, and is still in operation today. One piece donated is a large vase, dated 1939, with a beautiful gold cream and blue crystalline glaze. The use of crystalline glaze became popular at the turn of the century and was used by commercial art potteries such as Fulper and Roseville. During the 1930s, Stephen was the earliest Western North Carolina potter to use this difficult technique. Works from other North Carolina art potteries are also new residents at the Museum. A large fiery-red

storage jar from Rainbow Pottery and an orange glazed Jugtown pitcher were purchased from local dealers. Randy and Ilona Mack contributed to the North Carolina collection with a cream pitcher from Cole Pottery in the Seagrove area.

Two important pieces of historical Edgefield pottery have also made their way to the Museum's collections; a Thomas Chandler bowl with the characteristic clayslip curlique and flower decoration, and a pitcher attributed to the slave potter Dave. According to guest curator Jill Koverman, Dave is best known for his large storage jars; a pitcher made by him is therefore extremely rare. The Chandler bowl, because of its excellent

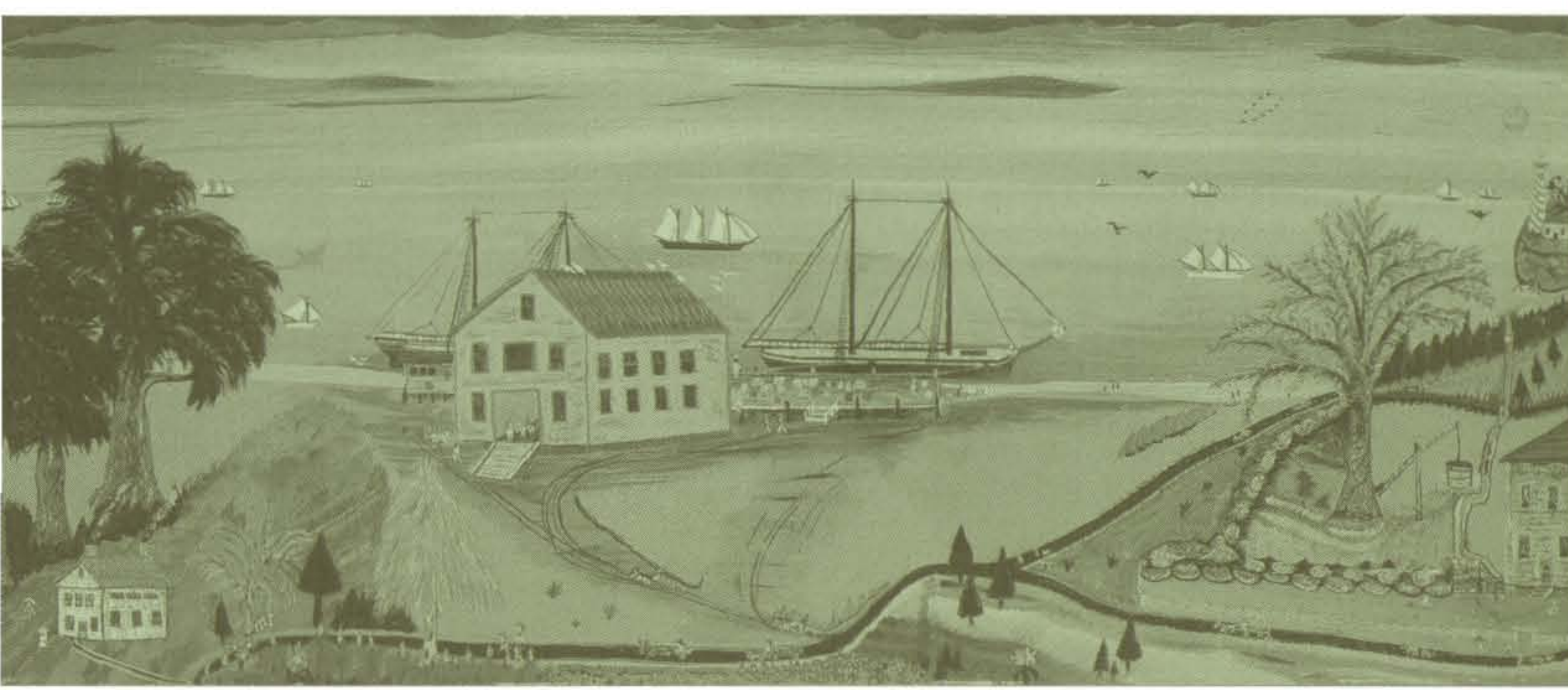
condition and beautiful decoration, is a wonderful exhibit piece. These two unique pieces of stoneware from the mid-nineteenth century greatly add to the scope of the Museum's collection of Southern stoneware. Both ceramics will be featured in the upcoming exhibition "I Made This Jar" – *The Life and Works of the Enslaved African Potter Dave*.



Top right: Catawba canoe-shaped bowl and footed cooking bowl; center: 19th century Chandler bowl; and left: Pisgah Forest Pottery works.







Earl Cunningham, Warehouse at Hokona Settlement

## Florida Folk Artist to be featured in January

Fifty colorful canvases by the noted folk artist Earl Cunningham will be on view in the Museum's main art gallery beginning January 11. These paintings have been selected from the collection of the Honorable Marilyn and Michael Mennello of Winter Park, Florida, the foremost collectors of the artist's work. Born in 1893, Cunningham lived in St. Augustine, Florida, for the last thirty years of his life, seriously pursuing his career as a painter from the 1940s until his death in 1977. He considered himself to be in direct competition with "Grandma" Moses, who was his contemporary.

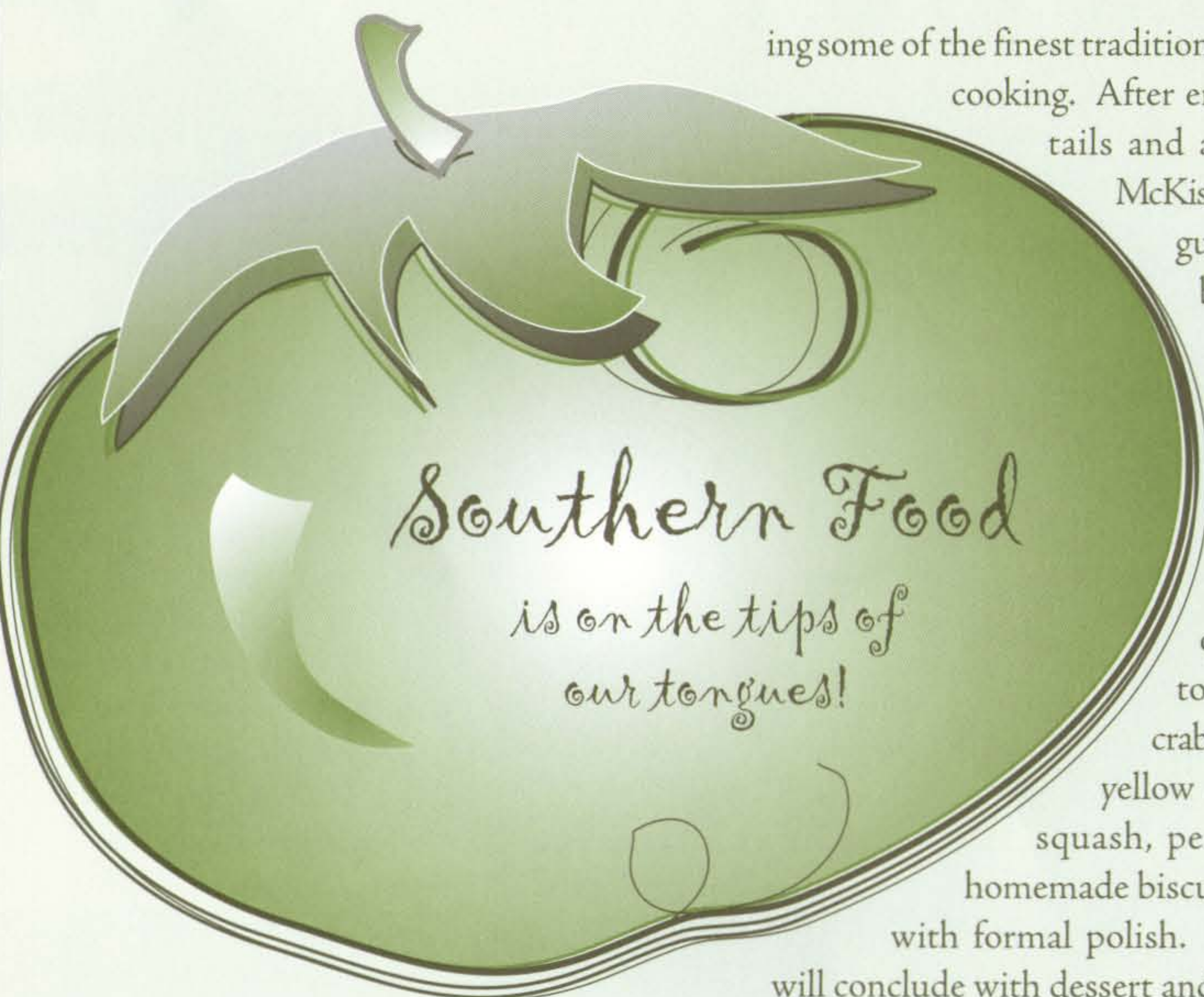
Cunningham's reputation has spread rapidly in the 1990s as interest in naive painting or so-called "outsider art" has grown. Cunningham's work was recently featured in a solo show at the prestigious New York gallery, Beacon Hill Fine Arts, and a canvas entitled *Seminole Everglades* was purchased in July by the Metropolitan Museum of Art for their new gallery of folk and outsider art. The Met's Curator of Twentieth Century Art, Lowery Sims, was quoted as saying, "We want to give folk artists a seat at the table of modernism." Featuring the work of folk artists such as Cunningham has been an important part of McKissick's mission since the Museum's founding, and we are delighted to see mainline museums such as the Met broadening their definition of modern art. ♦

## IMLS thank you

McKISSICK MUSEUM has just completed a two-year funding grant from the **Institute for Museum and Library Service**. Support from this agency was instrumental in allowing the Museum to upgrade computer services, install new collections security, enhance visitor services, and begin work on a new exhibition featuring traditional Islamic folkarts. Each of these projects was vital to the Museum's ability to efficiently care for its permanent collections and offer new and interesting exhibitions to the public. None could have been funded without grant support. ♦

## FAN fare kick-off!

The Museum's tailgating cookbook, *Fanfare! Tailgating with the Gamecocks*, will be released for sale at the Southern Food Festival. Filled with delicious and carefully tested recipes, this Gamecock classic is also the source of much tailgating lore and historical photographs. Come and pick up an arm load of these volumes for Christmas gifts! ♦



ing some of the finest traditions in southern cooking. After enjoying cocktails and appetizers at McKissick Museum, guests will walk by candlelight to the Faculty House for a menu featuring marinated Carolina quail, broiled tomatoes with crabmeat, sautéed yellow and zucchini squash, pecan rice and homemade biscuits, all served with formal polish. The evening will conclude with dessert and coffee in the beautiful garden of the Caroliniana Library.

Saturday's festival events will offer a variety of demonstrations, door prizes, and educational information. The focal point of the day will be a lecture by noted cookbook author and food expert John Martin Taylor. His recent book, *Charleston, Beaufort and Savannah, Dining at Home in the Lowcountry*, has brought our coastal cuisine to a national

audience. "Hoppin' John" Taylor, an authority on the origins of our region's unique blend of food traditions, has lectured to audiences across the United States. He promises a special slide presentation for the festival, and will also be available to autograph his cookbooks.

Other events on Saturday include a tea, served in celebration of our European roots; a presentation of table settings to satisfy the fantasies of any hostess' wildest desires, by *Mais Oui Interiors*; and demonstrations by *Boone Hill Herb Farm*, *Fineleaf Teas* and others. There will be numerous sources of information on African-American, Native and European cuisines and how they continue to co-exist and merge to become our distinctive regional fare

Reservations must be made in advance for Friday's progressive dinner. Tickets are \$50 per person, and cover all costs of dinner and refreshments, as well as admission to Saturday's events. A participation fee of \$5 gains admission to all of Saturday's festivities, chances on door prizes, a bag loaded with educational materials and food goodies, and the lecture. Come prepared to have a good time, and enjoy the best of southern cuisine on the historic USC Horseshoe! ♦

**O**n October 24th and 25th, the Museum will host our first **Southern Foodways Festival**. This two-day event will spotlight the many diverse and delicious food traditions found in our region.

The festivities will begin with an elegant progressive dinner on the Horseshoe, featur-



# Heaven, hell and hospital

SOME OF THE NEWEST SCHOLARSHIP ON A variety of topics relating to nature will be presented at McKissick on October 3 and 4. This scholarly symposium will explore many of the issues raised in the award winning exhibition *Knowing Nature: Natural History Study in a Multicultural South, 1560-1860*. The event is intended to give the public an opportunity to hear noted writers in the fields of history, science, medicine, anthropology, geography and literature discuss their current, and sometimes controversial, research on early natural history efforts in the region. These two days will be an excellent opportunity for teachers, nature enthusiasts, students, and lovers of local history to learn more about a unique and often overlooked aspect of Southern history and the environment.

For three hundred years before the Civil War, South Carolina was the center of natural history study in America. Native Americans, European colonists and African slaves utilized native plants and animals for sustenance and profit. Their collective knowledge of the region's flora and fauna was eagerly documented by intrepid naturalists who roamed the shores and forests. Many of these individuals settled in the city of Charleston, and helped to create scientific societies and the first American museum. The city boasted one of the country's most prominent scientific communities, one that combined an interest in medicine and an intense curiosity directed toward the natural environment.

THE TWO-DAY EVENT AT MCKISSICK WILL BEGIN on Friday afternoon with six presentations on such historical topics as indigo, rice and lowcountry landscapes. Saturday offers nine speakers discussing diverse peoples' contributions to natural history study of the region, including the Charleston naturalists. Of special interest will be sessions on the knowledge and contributions of African-American women to nineteenth century medicine, as well as Native American work with natural materials in various craft forms. The exhibition will be featured in two tours on Saturday, and curators will offer information on the many resources that went into this presentation.

Bringing the many speakers to this significant event was made possible by a grant from the South Carolina Humanities Council. Registration information for the two-day schedule of events, including a brief description of each presentation, materials and fees, lodging and parking instructions, can be obtained by calling Holly Mitchell at McKissick Museum, 777-7251.



## did you know...?

Museum educator Holly Mitchell just returned from an intensive two-week workshop with regional teachers on how to incorporate discipline based art education more effectively into schools and museums.

Museum staff members John Wright (educational services) and Susan Abdelsalam (graphics) have left McKissick for other professional positions. We wish both of them much success.

The South Caroliniana Library will be holding an autograph party on November 17 to celebrate the publication of *The Roman Remains: John Izard Middleton's Visual Souvenirs of 1820-1823*, edited by Charles R. Mack and McKissick director Lynn Robertson.

## Museum of Education News

THE MUSEUM OF EDUCATION continues its efforts to promote the importance of biography in education, and its autumn activities reflect this emphasis. The Museum has designated Patricia Bosworth as the recipient of the 1997 biennial Charles and Margaret Witten Award. Bosworth's biography, *Everything Your Little Heart Desires*, was featured on the cover of the *New York Times Book Review* this past spring. Ms. Bosworth will visit the Museum of Education on October 6th to receive the award and to discuss her work.

The popularity of last year's inaugural *Contemporary Educational Leaders Exhibition*—a portrayal of the career of Dr. John I. Goodlad—has been quite astonishing. Dr. Goodlad, Director of the Center for Educational Renewal at the University of Washington, is one of America's visionaries in school experimentation, and his concept of Professional Development Schools has become the centerpiece for the U.S.C. College of Education's teacher education program. This exhibit attracted

more visitors than any previous show, and Dr. Goodlad's "advice to educators" statement—donated to the Museum for its archival collection—has been regularly quoted in College discussions. Goodlad's comments serve as a mission for the Museum of Education:

"In confronting today's and anticipating tomorrow's challenges, it is imperative that we be clear on those elements of our culture worth preserving and advancing... The major function of museums is the exercise of these choices with great care so that we always will have before us examples of things worth replicating and improving upon."

As John Goodlad has guided teacher education and school renewal at USC and in South Carolina, the current *Contemporary Educational Leaders Exhibition* features the career of an equally influential educator, Dr. Elliot W. Eisner of Stanford University. No individual has more greatly defined South Carolina's conception of arts education and educational evaluation than Dr. Eisner. Dr. Eisner identifies four major challenges to American education. He concludes his statement by underscoring the complexity of education technology:

"...the later part of the twentieth century has seen the emergence of new technologies, particularly the computer that, in principle, afford students new opportunities to learn, to communicate, to explore the reaches of their imagination. I do not foresee, nor do I wish to see, schools in which the primary mode of instruction for children is through a cathode-ray tube. Humans ought not to be deprived of the opportunity to deliberate, to disagree, and to



reason together face to face about issues that they care about deeply. Nevertheless, the new technology provides important possibilities not only in the communication of messages created by others, but by the invention of images, sound, and words by students to convey what they cannot reveal in text and number alone."

The Elliot W. Eisner materials will be on display until March 1st.

Lastly, the Museum is pleased to announce support from the Kellogg Foundation to develop *Living History* productions. This experimental program brings educational history and biography to children throughout the state while also integrating material from the elementary-secondary language arts and social studies curriculum. The four productions depict the lives of colonial educator Moses Waddel; Miss Summers, a teacher of African-American children in the 1920s; and L. P. Hollis, the legendary Greenville superintendent of the 1920s-1950s.

The Museum of Education continues its various acquisition programs and greatly appreciates donations of teachers' diaries and assorted classroom materials. To discuss a donation to the Museum of Education, please call Victoria Kalemari at 777-5741.

The Museum of Education is supported by the College of Education with additional funds from the John Hawley Trust.





- 3-4 October ➤ **Knowing Nature Symposium: *Heaven, Hell and Hospital***  
For registration forms or information, call the museum at 777-7251
- 8 October ➤ **Lecture and Tea Series: *Art Glass and Pottery Exhibition***  
3:00-4:30pm, Free, pre-registration suggested
- 9 October ➤ **Muse's Night Out: *USC Theatre Group/Improv Night***  
7:00-8:00pm, Free
- 23 October ➤ **Southern Circuit: *An Evening of Jazz and Film***  
Filmmaker Robbie Henson, *Pharoah's Army*  
Reception, 6:00-7:30pm— Film at Nickelodeon Theatre, 8:00pm  
\$3.50/members—\$4.50/students, senior citizens—\$5.50/non-members
- 24-25 October ➤ **Southern Foodways Festival**  
*Progressive Black Tie Dinner*—Friday, October 24, 7:00pm, \$50.00/person  
*Festival on the Horseshoe*, Saturday, October 25, 11:00am-3:00pm, \$5.00/person
- 25-26 October ➤ **Haunted Horseshoe and the Museum of Horrors**  
6:00-8:00pm, \$5.00/family, \$2.00/individual
- 5 November ➤ **Lecture and Tea Series: *Art Glass and Pottery Exhibition***  
3:00-4:30pm, Free, pre-registration suggested
- 6 November ➤ **Artitude Adjustment: *John Izard Middleton Exhibition***  
Speaker: Lynn Robertson, Museum Director—5:30-7:00pm, Cash Bar
- 11 November ➤ **Muse's Night Out: *Poetry Reading***  
8:00-10:00pm, Free
- 13 November ➤ **Southern Circuit: *An Evening of Jazz and Film***  
Filmmaker James Duesing, *Law of Averages*  
Reception, 6:00-7:30pm— Film at Nickelodeon Theatre, 8:00pm  
\$3.50/members—\$4.50/students, senior citizens—\$5.50/non-members
- 6 December ➤ **Children's Holiday Fest**  
10:00am-2:00pm, \$5.00 per child— pre-registration suggested

## Permanent exhibitions

- **Baruch Silver Collection**
- **Laurence L. Smith Mineral Collection**
- **Pranks and Pundits**  
A View of the First One Hundred Years of Student Life at USC

through January 25, 1998

- **Knowing Nature**  
Natural History Study in a Multicultural South, 1560-1860

through December 14, 1997

- **From Tiffany to Teco**  
Art Glass and Pottery in the McKissick Museum Collection

September 17 through December 19

- **The Roman Remains**  
John Izard Middleton's Visual Souvenirs of 1820-1823

# McKissick Museum

University of South Carolina  
Columbia, South Carolina 29208



The museum is located at the head of the University of South Carolina's historic Horseshoe in the heart of campus. All exhibitions are free and open to the public.

Gallery hours are 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday, and weekends, 1 to 5 pm. Metered parking is available on all adjacent streets as well as in the lower level of the Pendleton Street Garage.

A number of volunteer opportunities are available at the museum. Call 777-7251 for additional information on membership, tours, programs, and exhibits. Visit our home page on the internet at: <http://www.cla.sc.edu/mcks/index.html>

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